

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 20 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 20 are rejected.

Disclosure Objections

Examiner has objected to the disclosure because reference labels 120, 130, and 140 require a corresponding description in the specification. Figures 2 and 3 have been revised to remove reference numerals 120 and 130. Paragraph [024] of the Specification has been amended to include reference numeral 140.

Drawing Objections

Replacement drawings sheets for Figures 4 and 5 are submitted to overcome Examiner's objections. Figure 4 has been amended to show reference numerals 144 and "W." Figure 5 has been amended to show "3W" for the trace spacing.

Claim Objections

Claims 10 and 20 are objected to by Examiner and have been amended to include "active steps" commensurate with recitation of "method" claim limitations as suggested by Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,940,362 to Otaki et al. ("Otaki"). Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 15, 16, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,347,041 to Hailey et al. ("Hailey") in view of Otaki.

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 and dependent claims 5, 10, 15, and 20 have been amended to recite that the first and second conductors have a width (W) and that the tabs formed on those conductors have generally uniform width equal to the width W. As discussed in the specification on page 7, paragraph 25, the recited dimensions provide effective propagation results. The tabs 152 in Figure 3 of Otaki, for example, have a first dimension at the point of contact with the main conductor 151 and the width of the tab varies continuously along the dimension perpendicular to the conductor 151. Applicants

submit that the combination of features recited in independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, and dependent claims 5, 10, 15, and 20 are not disclosed in the art of record and, therefore, are allowable. Applicants request, therefore, that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 35 U.S.C. §103(b) be removed and that these claims be passed to allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 512-338-9100.

The Commissioner is authorized to deduct any additional fees which may be necessary and to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 502264.

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Respectfully submitted,

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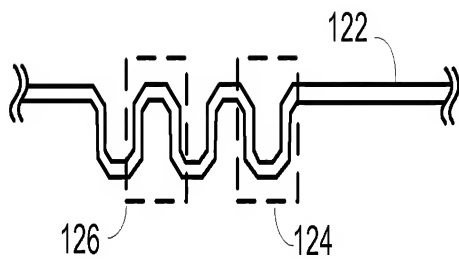


Figure 2
Prior Art

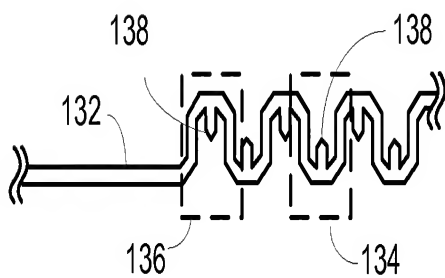


Figure 3

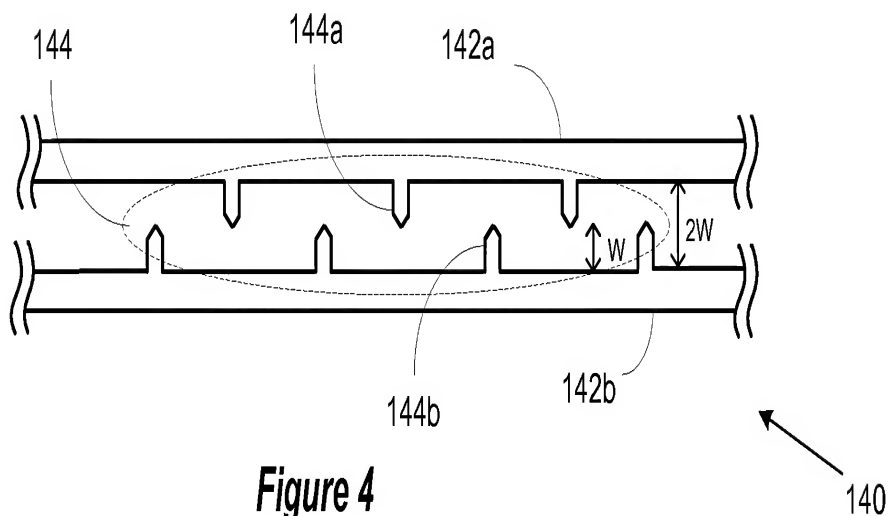


Figure 4

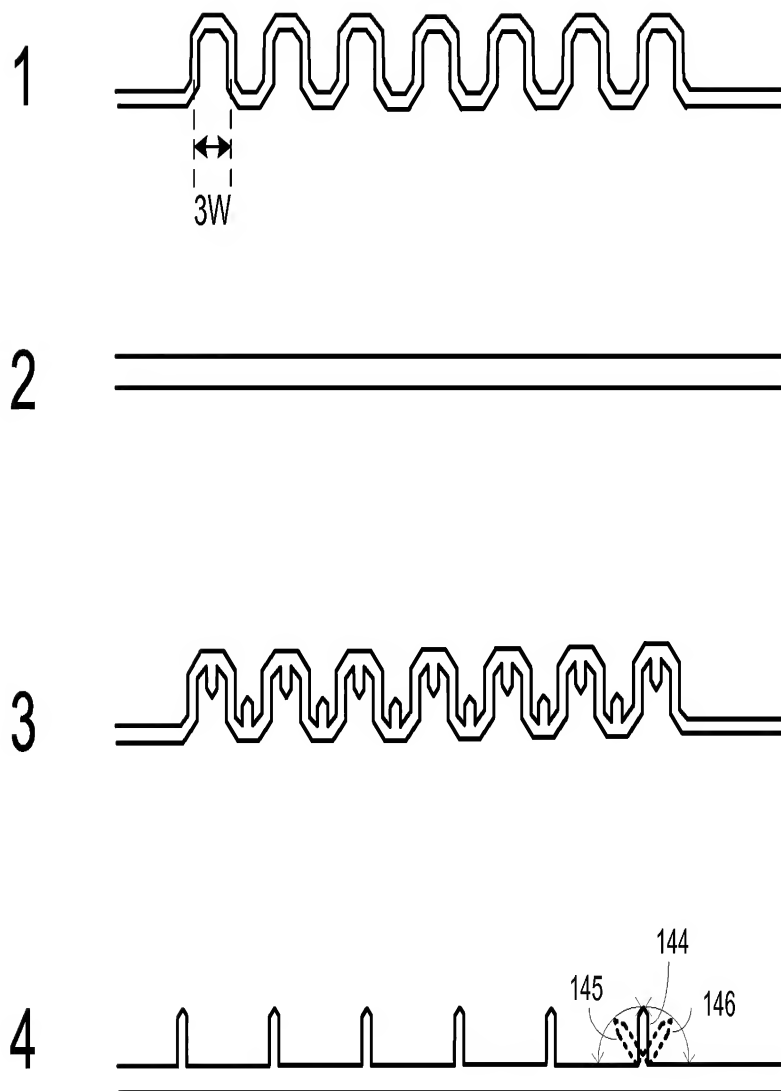


Figure 5